IT'S THE STORY YOU WON'T BELIEVE:

UNRAVELING

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

ISSUE 241

Archie COMICS

SEGA®

ARCHIECOMICS.COM

Welcome to the planet Mobius -- a world unique and beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic the Hedgehog and the heroic Freedom Fighters work to save the world from the forces of evil!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

PREVIOUSLY...

A KINGDOM IN PERIL!

As Sonic the Hedgehog leads **Team Fighters** abroad to hunt down the evil Dr. Eggman and his Death Egg Mark2 battle station, Rotor's **Team Freedom** stands poised to defend the city of New Mobotropolis. But these days it seems that defending the Republic of Acorn is no easy task.

On the throne of Acorn sits the evil wizard King Ixis Naugus, who, along with his apprentice Geoffrey St. John, has manipulated the fears of the public to seize the crown. In a recent battle with the Eggman Empire, Naugus collapsed in agony and horrible mutations erupted from his body. While Eggman's forces were eventually beaten back by Team Freedom (with a little help from the Secret Freedom Fighters – shh!) it seems that Naugus's condition has only gotten worse.

The wizard King is now dangerously insane, and his mutations are escalating. Naugus even attempted to cast a mind control spell over the Council of Acorn as they worked to ratify the Kingdom's new constitution. The Secret Freedom Fighters (with a little help from a remorseful Geoffrey St. John – shh!) put a stop to the scheme, but Naugus's triple threat remains:

He's crazy. He's desperate.
And he's ANGRY...

Who's Who

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
HERO OF MOBIUS

DR. EGGMAN
WORLD-CONQUERING MAD SCIENTIST

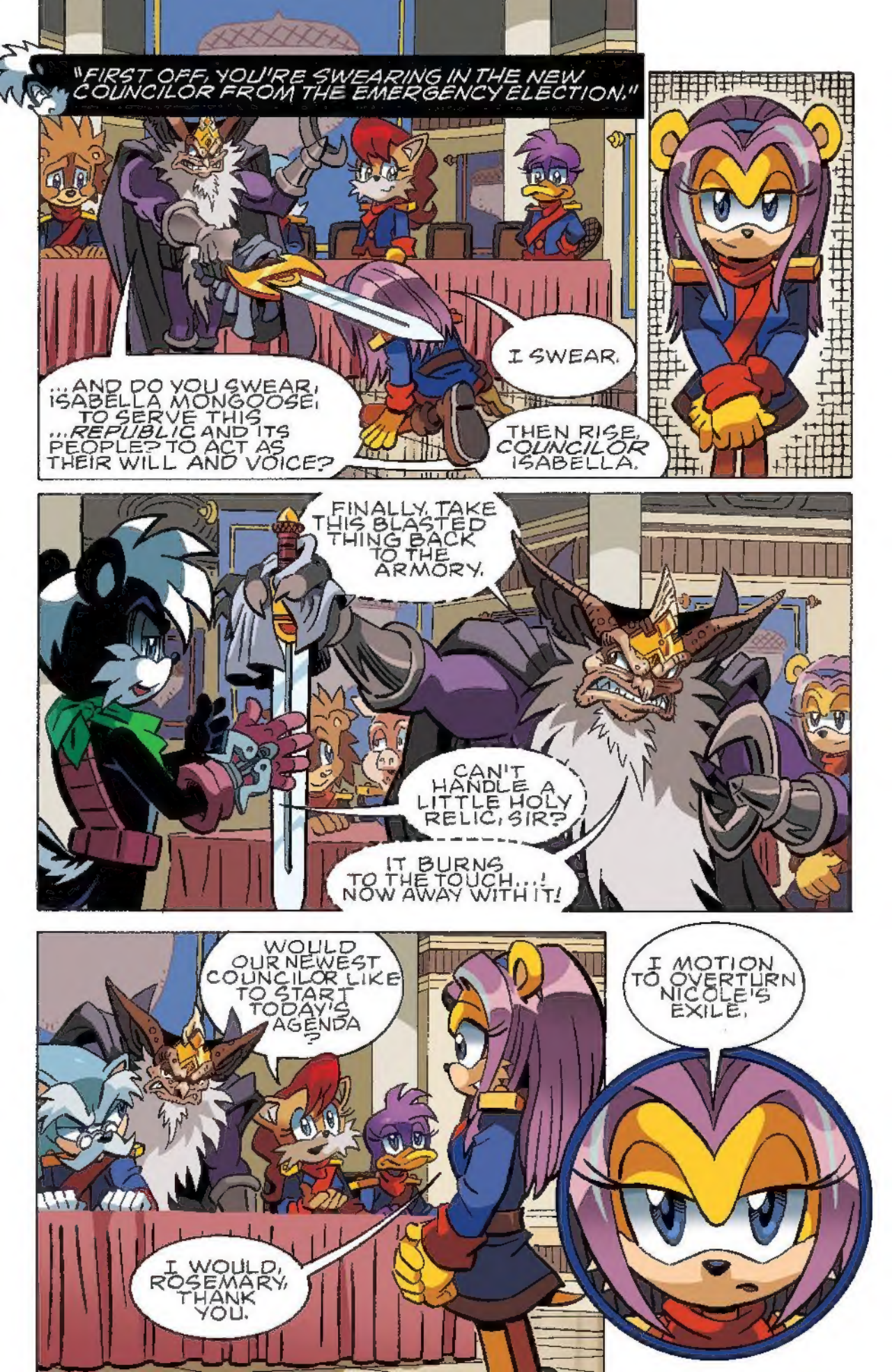
KING IXIS NAUGUS
EVIL (?) WIZARD

GEOFFREY ST. JOHN
EX-SPY & IXIS APPRENTICE

Writer: IAN FLYNN • Pencils: STEVEN BUTLER • Inks: TERRY AUSTIN
Colors: MATT HERMS • Letterer: JOHN WORKMAN
Cover by YARDLEY, AUSTIN, HERMS, and PEÑA • Variant Cover by GREG HORN
Assistant Editor: VINCENT LOVALLO • Editor/Exec Director of Editorial: PAUL KAMINSKI
Editor-in-Chief: VICTOR GORELICK • President: MIKE PELLERITO
Special thanks to ANTHONY GACCIONE and CINDY CHAU
at SEGA LICENSING

ABOARD THE DEATH EGG II...
BLASTED HEDGEHOG... THROW SOME EGG-SWATS AT THEM WHILE I FIND SOMETHING BIGGER!
ALREADY ON THE WAY, BOSS.
RRRGH! SO MANY DEATH MACHINES! TOO LITTLE TIME TO COMPLETE THEM!
PARDON, M'LORD, BUT ME-THINKS--
--I HATH FOUNDETH SOMETHING...
EGAD! IT'S A SPRIG OF THE KRUDZU HYBRID HYDRA!* WHY, I COULD PLUG THIS INTO ANY OF MY MACHINES, HAVE IT TAKE OVER, AND...
*SONIC SELECT VOL. 6.
EGG-SWATS AT TWELVE O'CLOCK!
OOH!
THEY'VE GOT JET-PACKS! I HAVEN'T SMASHED ANY OF THOSE!
LET'S MAKE THIS QUICK ...!
...THE SOONER WE RESCUE SALLY, THE SOONER WE GET HOME.
I DON'T LIKE LEAVING EVERYONE BEHIND WITH NAUGUS ON THE THRONE.

THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM US. NOT EVEN IN YOUR DREAMS.
YOU FAIL AS AN IXIS. YOU CAN'T HANDLE ONE HEDGEHOG.
YOU WEAR THE CROWN, BUT YOU HAVE NO CONTROL! NOT OVER YOUR KINGDOM! NOT OVER US!
NOT EVEN YOUR OWN BODY!
SILENCE! LEAVE ME BE!
AFRAID I CAN'T DO THAT, SIR. LIKE I SAID, IT'S TIME TO GET UP.
YOU'VE GOT A FULL DAY AHEAD. MAKE YOURSELF PRESENTABLE.
HRRGH... WATCH YOUR TONE WITH ME, APPRENTICE!
HE'S BEEN SURLY EVER SINCE...
...THE DEBACLE UNDER THE CITY.* I'LL HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM, TOO...
*SU #44-- SECRET FREEDOM.


"FIRST OFF, YOU'RE SWEARING IN THE NEW COUNCILOR FROM THE EMERGENCY ELECTION."
...AND DO YOU SWEAR, ISABELLA MONGOOSE, TO SERVE THIS ...REPUBLIC AND ITS PEOPLE? TO ACT AS THEIR WILL AND VOICE?
I SWEAR.
THEN RISE, COUNCILOR ISABELLA.
FINALLY. TAKE THIS BLASTED THING BACK TO THE ARMORY.
CAN'T HANDLE A LITTLE HOLY RELIC, SIR?
IT BURNS TO THE TOUCH...! NOW AWAY WITH IT!
WOULD OUR NEWEST COUNCILOR LIKE TO START TODAY'S AGENDA?
I MOTION TO OVERTURN NICOLE'S EXILE.
I WOULD, ROSEMARY, THANK YOU.

NO!

→AHEM←
N-NO. I... THE COUNCIL HAS ALREADY VOTED ON THIS. I PROTECT THIS CITY.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, YOUR HIGHNESS, THE RECENT ATTACK PROVED YOU CAN'T.*
TEAM FREEDOM SAVED YOU, AND THEY DROVE BACK DOCTOR EGGMAN. NICOLE COULD'VE GIVEN US ADVANCED WARNING!
*LAST ISSUE!

PUBLIC CONCERN IS WHY WE VOTED FOR THE EXILE, BUT WITH THE RECENT ATTACK IN MIND...
PERHAPS IF WE APPLIED THE MONITORING SYSTEM WE HAVE NOW...
WE COULD FINALLY REBUILD THE CASTLE...
YOU...

BUT WILL SHE ACCEPT? WE DID EXILE HER!
SHE'S A FREEDOM FIGHTER! OF COURSE SHE'LL...

HRRGH... I LEAVE IT TO THE COUNCIL!
BUT...
I FEEL ILL! SUMMON ME IF YOU NEED THE TIE-BREAKING VOTE!

BACK ON THE COAST...
LAST ONE!
C'MON, DOC!
WE'RE TEAM FIGHTERS! GIVE US SOMETHING TO FIGHT!
PIKO!
UMP
THUD!
I LIVE AGAIN! SONIC! THIS TIME YOU'RE MINE!
BOSS...DIDNT YOU DESTROY THE HYDRA LAST TIME FOR TRYING TO KILL SONIC?
CLAP CLAPCLAP
THIS TIME IT SERVES MY PURPOSES! FULL SPEED AHEAD!
OH, THAT'S... REALLY NOT GOOD.
SONIC! WHAT IS THAT?
A KRUDZU THING --I'LL EXPLAIN LATER! WE NEED TO TAKE IT DOWN BEFORE IT GETS ANY STRONGER!

NEW MOBOTROPOLIS, ROYAL MILITARY HQ.

TO WHAT DO WE OWE THE...PLEASURE, NAUGUS?

I'VE COME TO VISIT MY POOR, AILING FRIEND.

HELLO, MAX.

IT PAINS ME TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS. I WATCHED YOU GROW INTO A FINE YOUNG MAN.* FROM KING TO GREAT WAR TO BANISHMENT...

*SONIC ARCHIVES VOLUME 17.

I WAS THERE FOR YOU THEN, WASN'T I? I GAVE YOU THE POWER TO SURVIVE THE ZONE.** DO YOU REMEMBER HOW STRONG AND HEALTHY YOU WERE THEN? MMM?

*SONIC ARCHIVES VOLUME 14.

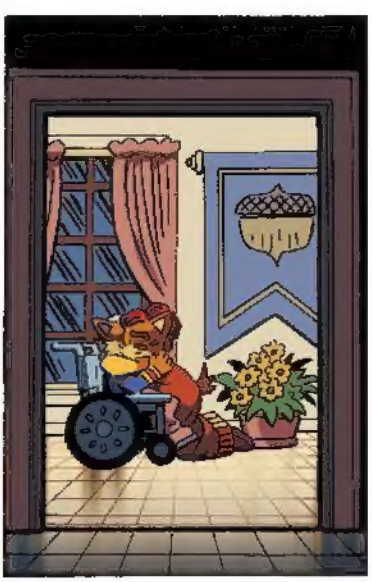
MY HUSBAND IS NOT WELL, SIR. PLEASE GET TO YOUR POINT.

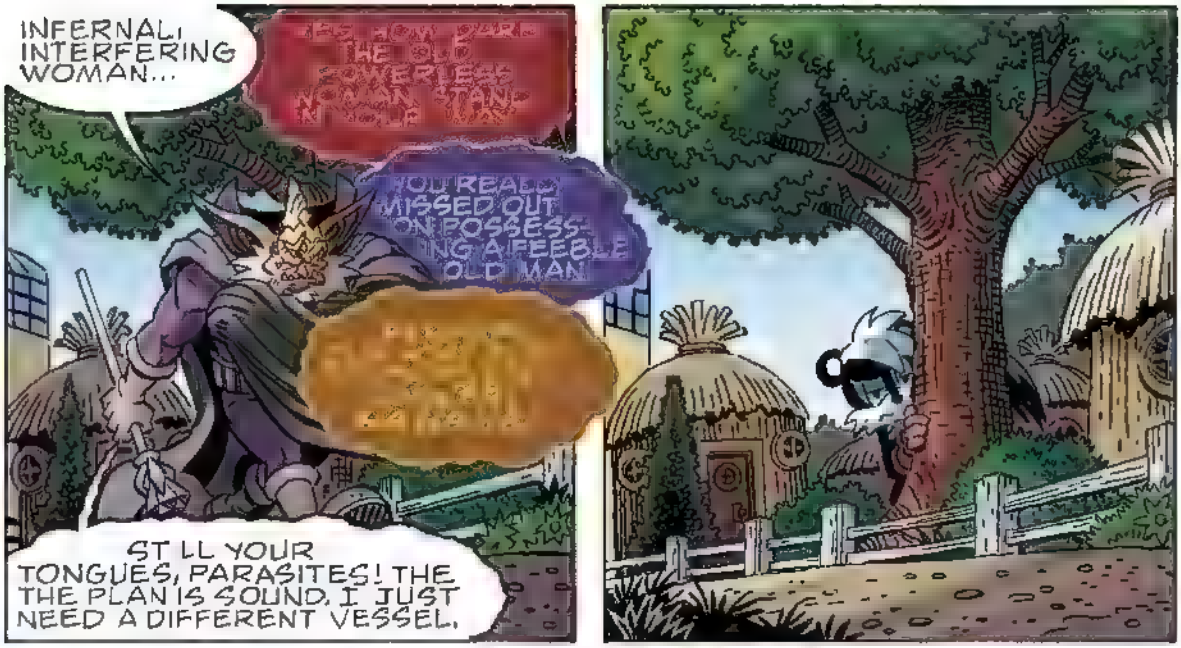
LADY ALICIA, I'M OFFERING HIM A NEW LEASE ON LIFE! I CAN MAKE HIM WHOLE WITH MY CRYSTALLINE MAGIC!

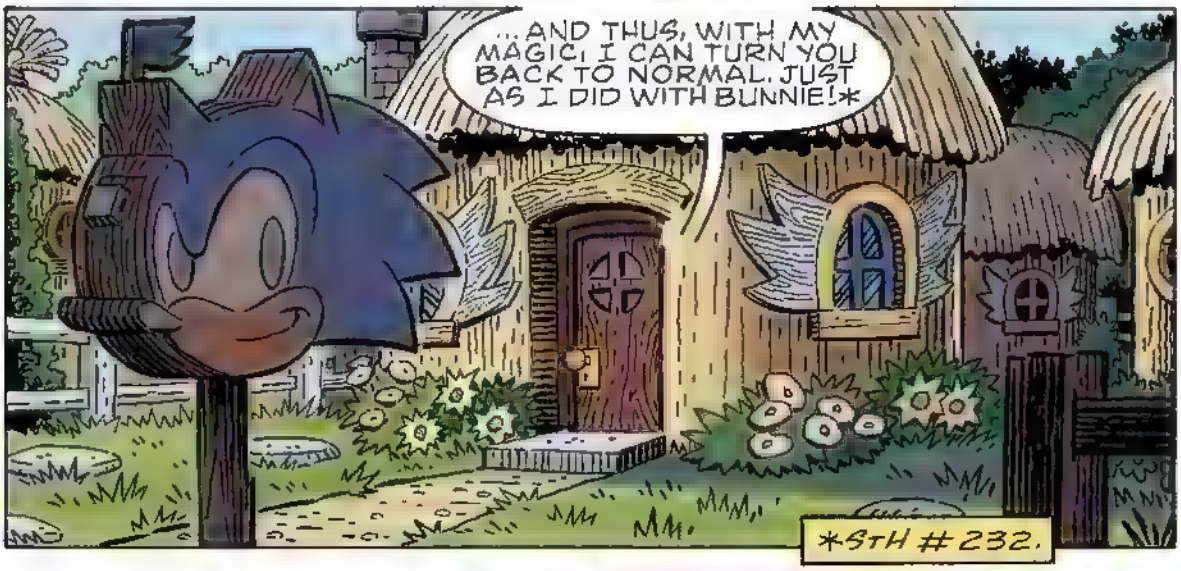
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH ME AGAIN, JUST AS BEFORE.
AND THEN I CAN POSSESS YOU AGAIN,* GIVING ME TIME TO FIND A WAY TO HEAL MY BODY.
*SONIC SELECT VOLUME 3.
N-NO...
NOW, NOW-- MAX, I--
HE HAS GIVEN YOU AN ANSWER. NOW KINDLY LEAVE US IN PEACE.
I AM KING HERE! I--!
HE IS THE BELOVED FORMER KING! AND YOU LOOK NO HEALTHIER. LEAVE, OR WE WILL SEE WHO THE GUARDS TRULY FAVOR AND HOW YOU FARE AGAINST THEM!

ALICIA...

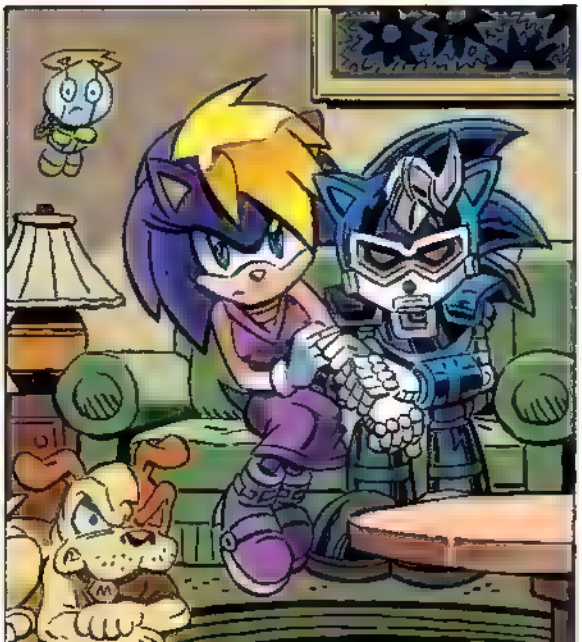
TH-THANK YOU...



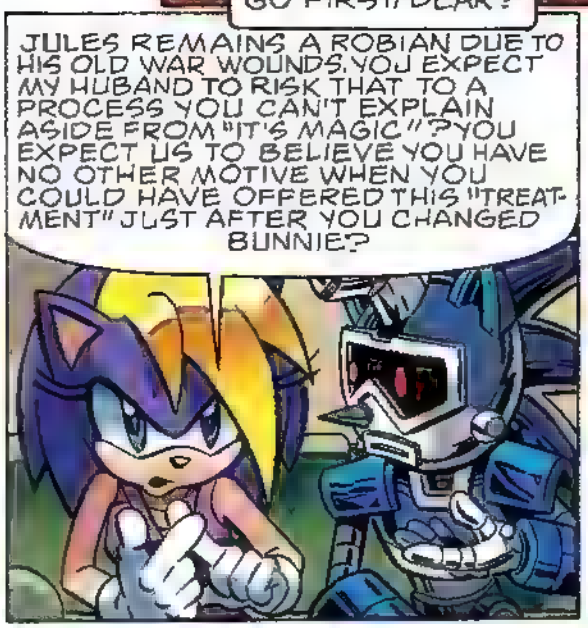

INFERNAL, INTERFERING WOMAN...
THE OLD POWERLESS WOMAN STANDS IN MY WAY
YOU REALLY MISSED OUT ON POSSESSING A FEEBLE OLD MAN!
ST LL YOUR TONGUES, PARASITES! THE THE PLAN IS SOUND. I JUST NEED A DIFFERENT VESSEL.


...AND THUS, WITH MY MAGIC, I CAN TURN YOU BACK TO NORMAL. JUST AS I DID WITH BUNNIE!*
*STH #232.

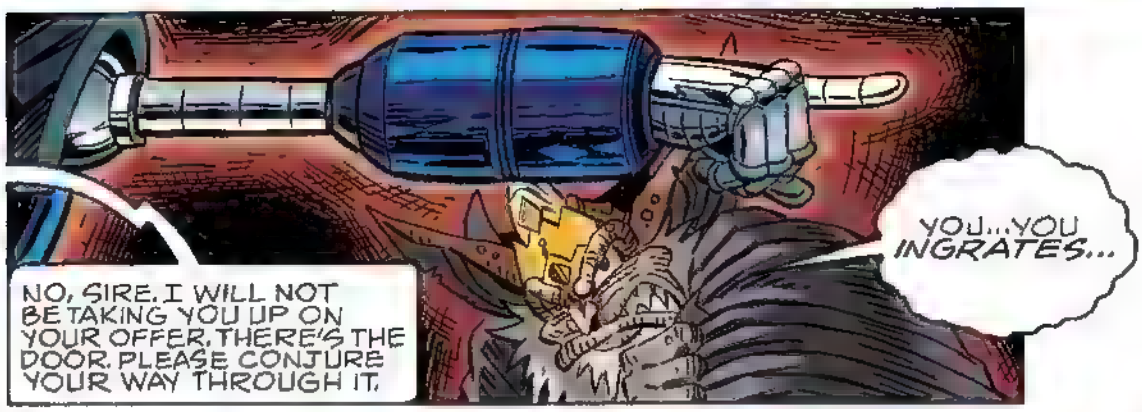
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS PUT YOUR FAITH IN YOUR KING. WHAT DO YOU SAY?

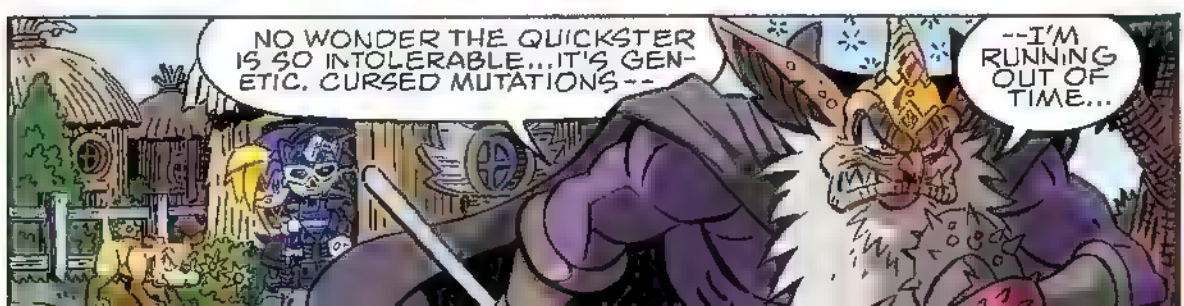


AND I NEED TO ENTER INTO A "MAGICAL CONTRACT" WITH YOU BECAUSE...
IT'S THE NATURE OF THE SPELL.
EXCEPT BUNNIE DIDN'T NEED TO.
TH-THAT WAS... A DIFFERENT SITUATION...
UH-HUH. CARE TO GO FIRST, DEAR?


JULES REMAINS A ROBIAN DUE TO HIS OLD WAR WOUNDS. YOU EXPECT MY HUBAND TO RISK THAT TO A PROCESS YOU CAN'T EXPLAIN ASIDE FROM "IT'S MAGIC"? YOU EXPECT US TO BELIEVE YOU HAVE NO OTHER MOTIVE WHEN YOU COULD HAVE OFFERED THIS "TREATMENT" JUST AFTER YOU CHANGED BUNNIE?

OF ALL THE NERVE TO... YOUR TURN, HON.
FURTHERMORE, YOU ARE THE MAN WHO NEARLY DROVE MOBIANS AND ROBIANS INTO CIVIL WAR, WERE THE BITTER ENEMY OF MY MENTOR, AND--MOST IMPORTANTLY --TRIED TO KILL MY SON.


NO, SIRE. I WILL NOT BE TAKING YOU UP ON YOUR OFFER. THERE'S THE DOOR. PLEASE CONJURE YOUR WAY THROUGH IT.
YOU...YOU INGRATES...


NO WONDER THE QUICKSTER IS SO INTOLERABLE...IT'S GENETIC. CURSED MUTATIONS--
--I'M RUNNING OUT OF TIME...

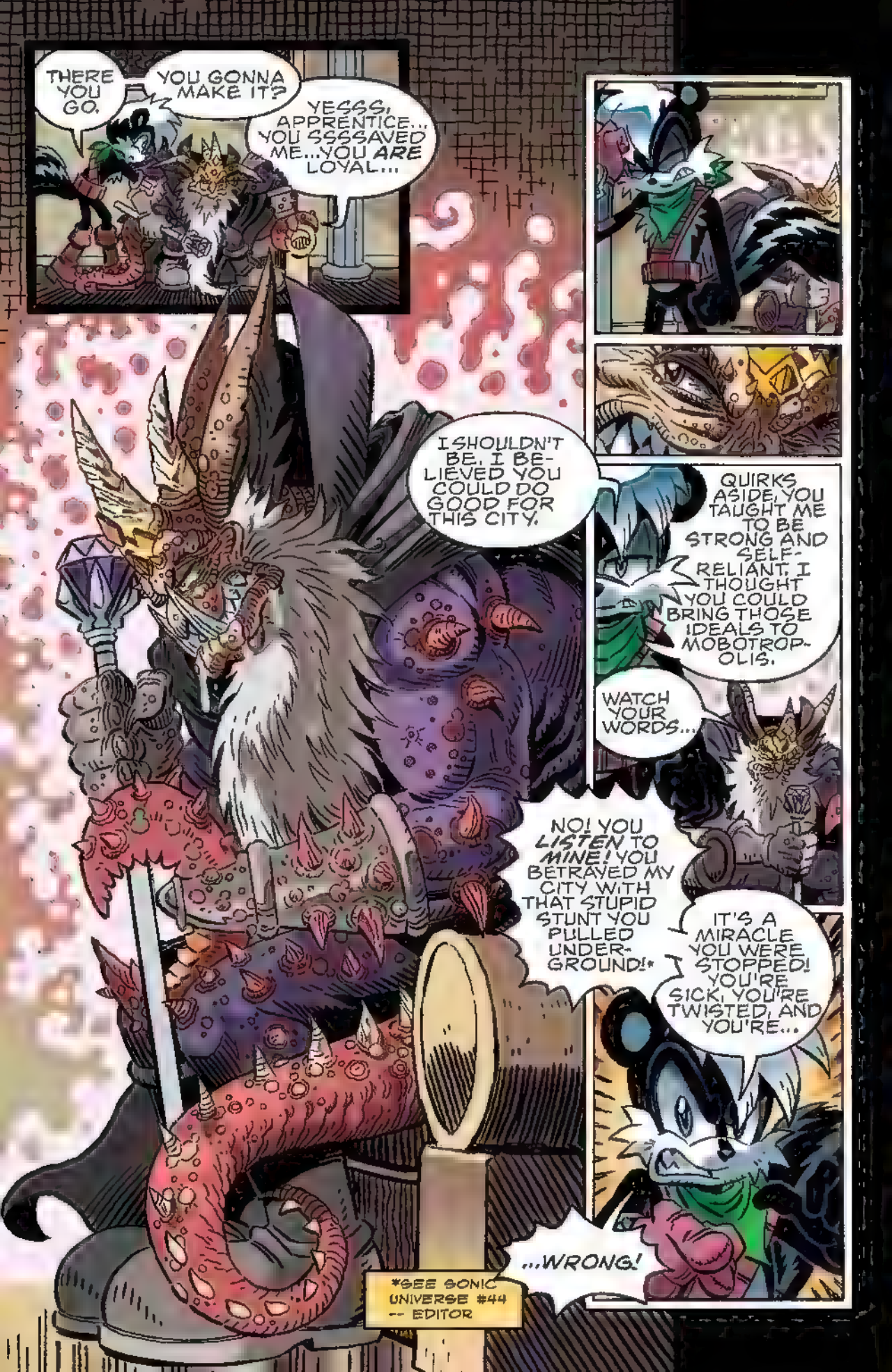
FALL BEFORE ME, INSECTS!
WE'VE GOT TO TAKE HIM DOWN BEFORE HE GETS TO FULL STRENGTH.
T-PUP PULLED UP THE FILE ON KRUDZU. IT'S WEAK TO WATER, REMEMBER?
WE'RE ON THE COAST.
BINGO!
THEN WE PUT EVERYTHING INTO ONE HIT AND KNOCK IT INTO THE SURF!
AMY, YOU SERVE UP A WALLOP COMBO!
TAILS, LOCK THE MISSILES ONTO ME WHEN I LAUNCH! IT'S NOW OR NEVER --LITERALLY.
SKASSH!!!

AUGH! NO! WHAT DID YOU DO--?!
AHHHHH! I'LL BE BACK! I'VE COME BACK FROM WORSE! I'LL BE BAAACK --!
CUT IT A LITTLE CLOSE THERE, HUH?
ONLY A LITTLE.
BIG GUY MADE ME THINK OF NAUGUS.
ALL THAT POWER ON THE OUTSIDE...

"...NO SUBSTANCE ON THE INSIDE!"
LATER--NEW MOBOTROPOLIS, COLISEUM...
THIS BETTER BE THE LAST THING FOR TODAY, APPRENTICE.
JUST THIS PUBLIC APPEARANCE AT MINA'S CONCERT, SIR.
GOOD. TODAY HAS BEEN... TRYING.
I USED THIS BAND TO SPREAD FEAR ABOUT THE A.I.* MORE HATE-MONGERING MUSIC WILL QUELL ANY TALK OF...
...REVERSING THE EXILE.
*STH #221.
GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE, AND THANKS FOR COMING OUT! THE LAST CONCERT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT EMPOWERMENT, BUT THE MESSAGE GOT LOST IN A CLOUD OF MY OWN FEARS. I WANT TO START BY SAYING TONIGHT'S THEME IS ABOUT LOVE, UNDERSTANDING...
...AND FORGIVENESS!
TONIGHT IS DEDICATED TO SOMEONE VERY SPECIAL WHO'S GIVEN EVERYTHING FOR US, BUT NOW NEEDS US TO GIVE IN RETURN. THIS FIRST SONG --THIS WHOLE CONCERT--IS DEDICATED TO YOU, NICOLE.
I'M GOING TO VOMIT.
PUBLIC IMAGE. SIT.
SHUT UP!
HAHA HA
I'M SICK OF KEEPING UP THESE PRETENSES. I'M SICK OF THE CITIZEN'S FICKLE MOOD. I'M SICK OF THE MUTATIONS AND YOUR VOICES, AND--
MOTHER, I THINK I LOST THAT TAILS-LOOKING DOLL.
YOU'VE TAKEN SUCH GOOD CARE OF IT. I'M SURE YOU JUST LEFT IT AT HOME.

"NO, I'M SURE I BROUGHT IT ALONG..."
SCHLURP SCHLURP
A ONE! A TWO! A ONE-TWO-THREE-WHOA!
TEAM FREEDOM! GET THEM OFF THE STAGE!
SCHLURP SCHLURP

YOU JUST HAD TO DO SOMETHING, DIDN'T YOU? DON'T YOU DARE TELL ME IT WAS "JUST A TREMOR," OR...
...CRIKEY, IT WASN'T YOU?
÷WHEEZE÷... ÷WHEEZE÷...
YOU OKAY?
MINA! MINA! ARE YOU HURT?!
LET'S HEAR IT FOR TEAM FREEDOM, SAVING THE DAY AGAIN!
YAAAAAY!
THIS IS ONE MORE REASON WE NEED NICOLE BACK! THE STAGE WOULD'VE BEEN FINE IF SHE'D BEEN HERE! SHE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT! TEAM FREEDOM AND TEAM FIGHTERS NEED OUR SUPPORT! THEY'RE THERE FOR US--WE NEED TO BE THERE FOR OUR HEROES!
YEAH! WE WANT NICOLE! HEROES! HEROES! HEROES!


THERE YOU GO.
YOU GONNA MAKE IT?
YESSS, APPRENTICE... YOU SSSSAVED ME...YOU ARE LOYAL...
I SHOULDN'T BE. I BELIEVED YOU COULD DO GOOD FOR THIS CITY.
QUIRKS ASIDE, YOU TAUGHT ME TO BE STRONG AND SELF-RELIANT. I THOUGHT YOU COULD BRING THOSE IDEALS TO MOBOTROPOLIS.
WATCH YOUR WORDS...
NO! YOU LISTEN TO MINE! YOU BETRAYED MY CITY WITH THAT STUPID STUNT YOU PULLED UNDERGROUND!*
IT'S A MIRACLE YOU WERE STOPPED! YOU'RE SICK, YOU'RE TWISTED, AND YOU'RE...
...WRONG!
*SEE SONIC UNIVERSE #44 -- EDITOR

AND I'M NO BETTER. MAKES ME A LOUSY PERSON TO JUDGE.
LOOK...
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS LIKE IN THE ORDER OF IXIS. ALL THE LIES AND BACK-STABBIN' MIGHT'VE BEEN NEEDED BACK THEN. AND IT SERVED ME AS A SPY...
...BUT THOSE DAYS ARE BEHIND US.
THIS CITY IS FULL OF CHARITABLE, FORGIVING FOLKS. IT'S THE ONE PLACE IN THE WORLD BLOKES LIKE US CAN LET OUR GUARDS DOWN AND TRULY DO GOOD.
ARE YOU SO NAIVE AS TO THINK THEY WOULD OFFER US THEIR TRUST? TO OFFER REDEMPTION?
YOU HEARD THE CROWD! THEY'RE READY TO BRING NICOLE BACK ALREADY. I ARRESTED SONIC ONCE, AND HE PUT IT BEHIND HIM FOR PITY'S SAKE!*
* SONIC ARCHIVES VOL. 12
MY POINT IS: I KNOW YOU'RE SICK. HAVE BEEN SINCE EGGMAN DID HIS "WHITE OUT" ATTACK.** INSTEAD OF TRYING TO TRICK YOUR WAY OUT OF IT...
...HOW ABOUT ASKING FOR HELP? JUST THIS ONCE?
**GENESIS GN.

DON'T EVEN PRETEND TO CONSIDER IT. YOU'RE TOO PRIDEFUL.
HE SHOULD NOT BECAUSE IT'S STUPID! YOU DON'T EXPOSE YOUR WEAKNESSES TO THE ENEMY!
IF YOU GIVE IN TO YOUR APPRENTICE, YOU'LL JUST PROVE YOU'RE AS GULLIBLE AS THE REST OF THIS CITY OF MORONS.
OH...OH, YES.
IT APPEARS WE'VE REACHED A CONSENSUS FOR ONCE.
MY DEAR GEOFFREY. YOU'VE REMINDED ME OF WHAT I FORGOT.
SIR?
YOU SWORE YOUR ALLEGIANCE YEARS AGO! YOU ENTERED INTO CONTRACT AT THE BEGINNING! YOU WILL SERVE AS MY VESSEL!
NO!!! LET GO OF--!
AHHHHGHHHH

THE NEXT DAY...
...AND WITH A UNANIMOUS VOTE--AND OUR SINCERE APOLOGIES--WE WELCOME YOU BACK INTO THE CITY UNDER "MONITORED CONDITIONS."
I AM HAPPY TO ACCEPT, SIR CHARLES. I KNOW WITH YOU I WILL BE IN GOOD HANDS, BUT WAS IT REALLY UNANIMOUS?
WELL...
IT IS NOW!
MY MASTER IS TOO ILL TO ATTEND TODAY, BUT SENDS HIS FULL SUPPORT OF YOUR RETURN.
HE DOES?
HE HAS ALSO SENT ME TO CONFESS A TERRIBLE SECRET HE HAS KEPT FROM ALL OF YOU. HE IS DYING, AND IN HIS DESPAIR, HE TRIED TO TAKE ON ALL HE COULD --TO SERVE THE CITY TO HIS FULLEST IN HIS LAST HOURS.
IT'S TAKEN ME QUITE A WHILE, BUT I GOT HIM TO SEE HIS OLD WAYS WERE FLAWED, AND HOW TOGETHER WE MAY SAVE HIS LIFE, SO THAT HE MAY SERVE YOU BETTER. WILL YOU HELP ME TO HELP HIM?

ELSE-WHERE...
DUDE, HOW LONG UNTIL WE CATCH UP WITH EGGY?
S-SONIC...
YOU...YOU NEED TO SEE THIS...
WE'RE TOO LATE...
...HE ALREADY HIT ALBION.
The fabled homeland of the Echidnas is under attack! Can Team Fighters turn the tide? Maybe with a little help from Knuckles! Join us in STH issue 243 for "Endangered Species!" Until then, enjoy a special event story next month, Sonic Universe, the Sonic Super Special Magazine, and the Graphic Novel Library!